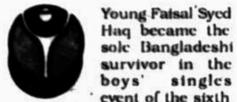




Sahiba Chadha of India joined three Thai girls in today's semifinals by beating her compatriot Arthi Ponappa in the singles quarter-finals of the sixth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday. Chadha won 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10-8).

Faisal lone local singles quarter-finalist

Sports Reporter



Young Faisal Syed Haq became the sole Bangladeshi survivor in the boys' singles event of the sixth Bangladesh international junior tennis championships which entered the quarter-final stage at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

The four other local lads who had reached the pre-quarterfinals bowed out of the competition, as did number six seed Vasudeva Reddy of India who was conquered 1-6, 7-6(7-2) and 6-4 in a thrilling encounter by unseeded fellow Indian Suhel Malhotra.

Faisal made the last eight with a facile 6-0, 6-1 win over his compatriot Sree Arjun in their morning clash.

Top seeded Atip Chotyanwong of Thailand, second seeded Asim Shaifq of Pakistan, third seed Vikram Venkataraghavan of India and fourth seeded German Thomas Sascha Winkler all cruised into today's quarterfinals without any hitch, posting straight-forward victories over their weaker opponents.

Tournament favourite Atip Chotyanwong was the only seed to have a bit of a struggle after conceding the opening set 2-6 to his Pakistani opponent Md Khalique. But the confident Thai, who has 300 ranking points behind him, soon clawed his way back into the contest to take the following two sets 6-3, 6-4.

Asim Shaifq had no such alarms while playing against SM Waliullah Jilani, winning easily 6-1, 6-2. Jilani who had performed a giant-killing feat on Tuesday beating Polish player Bartolomej Szepka 6-3, 6-2, had no answers against the superior skills of the Pakistani yesterday.

Vikram Venkataraghavan, the Indian third seed with one of the most difficult names for the tournament organisers to spell (they've been conveniently referring to him as Vikram V in their daily result bulletins) trounced South Korea's Sung Jin-Won 6-2, 6-1 to earn a date in today's quarterfinal clash against countryman Suhel Malhotra.

Number four Thomas Winkler toyed with Bangladesh's national junior runner-up Dilip Passia in the day's first encounter before registering a 6-0, 6-2 win. Dilip hardly deserved to take the two games that he did in the second set which saw the German trying some ambitious shots and making several unforced errors.

Jirapong Rajanavasi of Thailand, failed to justify his eleventh hour promotion as the number eight seed when he was beaten by India's Anirban Baruah 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 in a well-fought three-setter which saw the Thai drawing level by taking the second set 7-5.

The last quarter-final berth was claimed by Poland's Aleksander Mierzwinski who beat Bangladesh junior number one Shibu Lal 4-6, 6-0, 6-0. It was a sort of a bizarre contest which saw the Bangladeshis winning the first set 6-4 only to pass up the next two sets without even coming anywhere near to taking another game. The first set effort appeared to have drained the Bangladeshis of all his reserves and he surrendered meekly enough for two successive trouncings at love. Today's quarter-finals schedule, beginning at nine in the morning, will pit Atip Chotyanwong against Anirban Baruah, Winkler against Mierzwinski, Malhotra against Venkataraghavan and Faisal Haq against Asim Shaifq.

The girls' doubles quarter-finals are also scheduled for today with a 2:00 pm start. Arthi Ponappa (India) and top seed C Sudopee of Thailand will face the Bangladeshi pair of Shapla and Rusht, the South Koreans Ki-Jung Chung and Seok Eun-Sah will meet the Indian pairing of Sahiba Chadha and Lavanya Manradia, Bangladesh's Mehri Anasif and Ifat Ambarin Joya will take on fellow Bangladeshis Ruma and Mithun while the Thai pair of Pimsamail Kansuthie and Tamarine Tanasugarn will face another Bangladeshi pair of Yasmin Ahmed and Saathi Khandaker.

Today's fixtures also include the boys' doubles semifinals between Vasudeva Reddy of India and Atip Chotyanwong of Thailand, and the Pakistanis M Khalique and Hassan Mehmood versus the Indians SM Fazal Uddin and Devarshi Mitra.

The boys' doubles semifinals will follow the girls' doubles quarterfinals.

Three Thais and an Indian took their places in the girls' singles semifinals after yesterday's quarter-final actions.

Top seed C Sudopee of Thailand moved into the semifinals blanking Bangladesh's Yasmin Ahmed 6-0, 6-0 in a farce of a match which gave the Bangladeshi no chance at all. Sudopee's compatriot Tamarine Tanasugarn registered another similar whitewash against Bangladesh's Ifat Ambarin Joya 6-0, 6-0.

Gulshan shock Brothers

Sports Reports

A fine all-round team effort enabled unfancied Gulshan Youth Club to pull off a major upset and finish as Group 'C' champions by registering a nail-biting two-wicket victory with just one ball of the match remaining against the reigning Navana Premier Division league champions Brothers Union in the thirteenth Dama Summer cricket tournament yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Brothers Union, batting first, scored 191 runs for the loss of eight wickets in their stipulated 42 overs.

Gulshan Youth Club put up a spirited display to score 192 runs for eight wickets in 41.5 overs.

Gulshan Youth, in reply scored 192 for eight wickets in 41.5 overs. Gulshan Youth came into the Group 'C' final by narrowly beating Bangladesh Railway by 16 runs on November 17 while Brothers Union had convincingly defeated Sadharan Bima by eight wickets on November 18.

With this defeat Brothers Union now faces an uphill task to qualify for the semifinal, having now to face last year's runners-up Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) on November 23. If they can overcome GMCC then they will face the winners of the Mohammedans versus Bangladesh Biman in the semi-final scheduled for November 25.

Gulshan's shock win allows them to have a relatively weaker opponent in Victoria Sporting Club in the quarter-

final on November 24. The winners of that match will face the winners of today's Abahani versus Udiity in the semifinals.

Gulshan Youth Club, facing a daunting challenge to score 192 runs for victory against reigning Navana Premier League champions Brothers started disastrously when they lost their first wicket with just two runs on the board, opener Iftekhar falling for one run.

Brothers West Bengal recruit Arup Bhattacharya caught him off the other Brothers overseas recruit Sri Lankan T L Fernando's pace bowling.

Arif joined the other opener Sohail Hamid at the fall of the Iftekhar's wicket. The pair put on a priceless 58 runs for the second wicket. Going for a cheeky single Arif ran himself out for 18. All-rounder Rupom then joined Sohail Hamid and helped add scored 43 runs for the third wicket.

Sohail Hamid scored 52 runs including some beautiful shots and two dives. Early in the innings all-rounder Nadir Shah failed to run out Sohail who was stranded out of his crease and a few runs later Brothers' skipper Athar Ali dropped a sharp chance off Arup Bhattacharya's bowling. Sohail Hamid made the most of his chances to notch a gallant 52. The best part of his innings was when he hoisted the diminutive left-arm spinner Shamsul Huda for two effortless sixes straight over the bowler's head, the bowler conceding 16 runs in that over.

Rupom took charge after Sohail left and scored an exciting 47 runs off only 60 balls.

Ishtiaq with nine and Shamim with 10 scored briskly during the run chase.

Gulshan lost their eighth wicket at the score of 170 with another 22 runs still needed for victory and 16 balls remaining.

Ashique and Manju paired up for a brave ninth wicket stand and weathered the storm to get the vital 22 runs without any further damage with Ashique and Manju remaining unbeaten on ten and nine respectively. Gulshan were also lucky to have received a Brothers gift of 27 extra runs.

T L Fernando took one wicket for 12 runs off seven overs. He could not complete his quota of nine overs because of a muscle cramp in the final stages of the match. Nadir Shah, Arup Bhattacharya, Shamsul Huda, Suman and Athar Ali bagged one wicket each for Brothers.

Earlier in the morning, Brothers skipper Athar Ali decided to bat first. Sumop topped off with a breezy 65 runs off 77 balls. He sent the ball five times to the ropes. Nobel with 32, Halim Shah 29, Arup 18, and Shovon with 12 were the other Brothers batsmen to reach double figures.

Babul, Mamun and Rupom captured two wickets each for 32, 35 and 38 runs respectively.

After the match Brothers' cricket secretary Wasim blamed his batsmen and spinners for the defeat. But he was confident that his side would play to their full potentials in the matches to come.

TODAY'S MATCH
Abahani vs Udiity Club (Dhaka Stadium)

Japanese mean business

LIVERPOOL, England, Nov 20: Gary Lineker's proposed three million pound deal to join the Grampian Eight Toyota Club could be the first of many moves as Japan attempts to stage the 2002 World Cup finals, reports AFP.

The Lineker move has into surprised me and I believe we can expect more. Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said on Tuesday.

Toyota, one of 10 big firms backing the new Japanese league due to start in 1993, are expected to reveal the conditions of Lineker's move at Nagoya later this week.

The England captain, 31 next week, is expected to get three million pounds in signing-on fee, wages and endorsements for the last big move of his career.

Tottenham will get one million pounds. Lineker, whose contract with the London Club runs for another 18 months, will go to Japan after next June's European Championship finals in Sweden.

Robinson said a delegation from the Toyota Club visited Liverpool last season to find out how a 'big-money profes-

sional club was run.

The Japanese are very thorough. I'm sure new league will become a top-quality competition in terms of global football, Robinson said.

I don't think this will be a flash-in-the-pan like the North American league which was started from Strach 20 years ago.

Japan's master plan is to develop a framework strong enough to allow them to stage the World Cup in 2002 - an idea which has the backing of FIFA president Joao Havelange.

They are building for the future in every way, Robinson said.

Bagan's title

BOMBAY, Nov 20: 21st-minute goal by striker Chima Okeri gave Mohun Bagan the Rovers Cup in the final against Mohammedan Sporting in their solitary goal win here today, reports PTI.

Milla won't retire

YAOUNDE, Nov 20: Roger Milla, who became the oldest man to score a World Cup goal in last year's finals in Italy, has been talked out of retirement, reports AFP.

The 39-year-old has been drafted into Cameroon's squad for January's African Nations Cup in Senegal.

Cameroon, triple African champions, have struggled since returning in glory after reaching the World Cup quarter-finals.

Milla has been coaching Second Division Mvolye since coming home from a world tour playing in exhibition matches and making a pop record.

First Division chess results

The Metropolitan First Division chess league began yesterday at the chess room of National Sports Council (NSC), reports UNB.

Bangladesh Biman, Brothers Union, Free Birds International, Farashganj SC and Parijat Chess Club won their respective opening day ties.

Biman beat Bangladesh Ansars 2.5-1.5 points, Brothers Union trounced Protibha Goshit by 3.5-0.5, Free Birds outplayed Konica Sangha 3-1, Farashganj SC defeated Propid Sangha 3-1 and Parijat Chess Club beat Pony Electronics by similar margin.

The other match of the day between BTMC and Tilak Chess Club ended in a 2-2 draw.

Fifteen chess clubs are participating in the league.

Rajshahi cricket league begins

RAJSHAHI, Nov 20: The fifth Mithu Aynul memorial cricket tournament organised by Balkali Sangha began here today, reports BSS.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Md Saifuzzamam formally inaugurated the tournament.

A total of 24 local cricket teams will participate in the limited overs tournament.

Sanchez, Fernandez in quarters

NEW YORK, Nov 20: Mary Joe Fernandez advanced to the quarterfinals of the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships on Tuesday when Helena Sukova retired in the third set because of an injury to her left thigh, reports Reuter.

The seventh-seeded Fernandez and Sukova were tied at 2-2 in the third set of their first-round match when the Czechoslovakia pulled up in pain after making a winning volley.

Sukova had won the opening set 6-2 and was within two points of winning the second set in the 12th game before Fernandez fought back to force a tiebreak, which the American won 7-5 to extend the match.

After straining her hamstring on the opening point of the fifth game of the third set, Sukova watched a Fernandez serve whiz by before summoning a trainer to check on her injury. A sleeve was wrapped around her thigh and once the match was resumed Sukova smacked a crosscourt winner to lead 30-15.

Two points later, however, Sukova was forced to quit, wiping away tears to congratulate Fernandez. She will meet the winner of Wednesday's match between world number one Monica Seles and Julie Halard of France.

It was the second successive match at the three million dollar tournament at Madison Square Garden to end because of injury.

Monday's late doubles match was decided when Kathy Rinaldi turned her left ankle in the third set and had to retire with Canadian partner Jill Hetherington against Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Sukova.

Fernandez said the wear and tear of the long tennis season could have been a contributing factor to the injuries.

"It's a long year and at the end, at this tournament, you're giving it your all", said Fernandez. "It takes its toll on your body."

Sukova squandered an opportunity to finish the match in the second set but Fernandez escaped from 0-30 while trailing 5-6. Sukova double faulted to fall behind 4-5 in the tiebreak when she was called for foot fault and the American took the next two points to even the match.

Sanchez Vicario, the fifth seed, also had to come from behind to take her place in the quarterfinals of the elite 16-player tournament.

The former French Open champion, ranked fifth in the world, dropped the first set to Zina Garrison before surging to a 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 victory for her fifth successive win against the American.

Garrison produced a scintillating first set, whipping powerful groundstrokes into the corners past the quick-footed Spaniard. But her touch disappeared in the next set and Garrison collapsed under the constant pressure applied by Sanchez Vicario, who won the last 10 games.

"I wasn't aggressive when I needed to be aggressive", said Garrison, who stayed at the baseline instead of pressing the attack.

Sanchez Vicario's next opponent will be four-time champion Martina Navratilova, who has beaten the Spaniard nine of 10 times.

"I'm ready to play Martina", said the 19-year-old Sanchez Vicario, who lost in three sets and two tiebreaks to Navratilova in the quarterfinals of the US Open.

"I know she's going to come to the net all the time and all I have to do is play my game."

Hagler rejects \$15m bid

MILAN, Nov 20: Marvin Hagler, the former world middleweight champion, said in an interview published Wednesday that he recently rejected a \$15 million comeback bid, reports AP.

The 37-year-old American, who quit boxing in 1987, said he's not going to reconsider his difficult decision to retire following a seven-year reign.

"I received several offers for a comeback. The latest that I rejected was of about 15 million dollars. I have no regrets. I had a lot from boxing and I could add nothing to what I already achieved," Hagler said in an interview with Italy's largest sports daily, Gazzetta dello Sport of Milan.

The retired fighter of Newark, New Jersey, who had been nicknamed by boxing fans "The Marvelous," has been working as a movie actor in recent years and is now in Italy to shoot "The Looters."

"My boxing career has been fantastic but it's over. Now I am thinking of becoming an important figure in show business.... I believe that comebacks of veterans are no good at all for boxing. I refused a comeback not to spoil the image of the Marvelous," Hagler was quoted as saying.

337 events in 1994 Asiad

TOKYO, Nov 20: Japan is to stage a record 31 sports and 337 events at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in 1994, the Japan Olympic Committee (JOC) said on Wednesday.

The JOC said Modern Pentathlon and karate would be the new sports in the Asian Games. Last year, the Beijing Asiad staged 29 sports - two as demonstration - and 313 events.

The JOC's decision is subject to approval from the Olympic Council of Asia

Under-16 booters called to camp

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday asked 24 junior footballers to report to their team manager Amalash Sen and coach Hasnuzzaman Bablu tomorrow November 22 at 8:00 am at the Brothers Union ground; reports UNB.

The under-16 booters were earlier trained by German coach Earnest Rodar last May.

The BFF will form its under-16 team from the players who will participate in the under-16 mini football tournament beginning December 1 at the Mirpur National Stadium.

The selected players are Tipu, Nasir, Nayan, Paritosh, Salauddin, Shovon, Rana, Selim, Imadul (BKSP), Akku, Aman Mntoo (Eskaton SS), Shahzada, Biplob, Monir (Mirpur Eleven) Jahangir, Tipu (Khalna), Apel (Rajshahi), Simon (Mohammedans), Hiru (Muktijoddha) Shaheen (Magura) Khaled (Barisal), Masud (Dhaka) and Kamrul (Pabna).

N'ganj soccer

Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 20: Jalparibahan Sangtha defeated Shuktara Juba Sangha by two goals to nil in the Mukdhara First Division football league match held at the local Osmani Stadium this afternoon.

Both the goals came in the second half.

Nilu netted the first goal against the run the play in the first minute of the second half. Receiving a pass from the right blank, Nilu made no delay in sending the ball into the Shuktara net.

Shuktara dominated the match in the second half yet allowed their opponents to score twice.

Zia of Jalparibahan netted the second goal when he received a similar pass inside the Shuktara zone in the seventh minute of second half.

The teams played an attacking game in the first half but Shuktara gradually took control in the second half. Due to the lack of a good striker Shuktara could not score. In the second half, they missed as many as five open nets.

Wattana has to win to sustain comeback

PRESTON, England, Nov 20: James Wattana must beat world number 13 Alain Robidoux for the first time in the fifth round of the UK championships to keep up the sudden revival in his snooker fortunes, reports AFP.

The Young Thai former amateur world champion won his fourth round game with Ireland's Paddy Browne 9-3, but was not entirely happy with the performance, especially a number of unforced errors.

The criticism was a bit harsh as breaks of 93, 57, 79, 50 and a 109 in the last frame testify.

The 21 year-old has not had the best start to the season but his victory over Browne, ranked 63 places below Wattana in 83rd place in the world, could be a turning point.

After losing his first match at the Rothmans Grand Prix last month, Wattana badly needed to win here to remain on target for a top 16 place next season.

Aquino lights SEA Games torch

MANILA, Nov 20: President Corason Aquino on Wednesday lit the torch for the 16th Southeast Asian Games and asked countries in the region to unite as long as the flames, symbolizing sportsmanship, remain ablaze, reports AP.

Mrs. Aquino lit the torch at the presidential palace and then met with members of the Philippine delegation. The games formally begin Sunday, with the first competitive events on Monday.

"As we welcome from Kuala Lumpur the torch of the 16th Southeast Asian Games, we also welcome the opportunity to contribute to the development of southeast Asian athletes," Mrs. Aquino said at the short ceremony.

"Let this flame of a long tradition of sportsmanship in our region bring us closer together as Asians. Let it keep friendships ablaze among our peoples," she added.

The regional competition brings together some 3,600 athletes and officials from nine countries in Southeast Asia. Aside from the host Philippines, the 16th round of the biennial event will have teams from Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The last SEA Games were held in Kuala Lumpur in 1989.

PWD blank Udiity 6-0

PWD SC recorded a massive 6-0 goals victory over Udiity Club in the Green Delta Second Division hockey super league yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

The first half score was 4-0.

Dina Lusai and Shoaib netted two goals each while Zafar and Nasir scored once each for title-chasers PWD SC.

The other match of the day between Farashganj SC and Dhaka Young Star Club ended in a goalless draw at the same venue.

Farashganj SC got one penalty stroke and nine penalty corners in the match but failed to convert any.

Today, Shishu Kishore Sangha will take on Mukta Bihanga at 2 pm while Cantonian SC will meet Barnak Samaj at 3.15.

Army hockey

COMILLA, Nov 20: The Anti Aircraft Artillery Team, the Comilla Area Team and the Bogra Area Team earned full points while the Chittagong Area Team shared point with the Rangpur Area Team in four qualifying matches of the Army hockey championship at the Comilla Cantonment, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

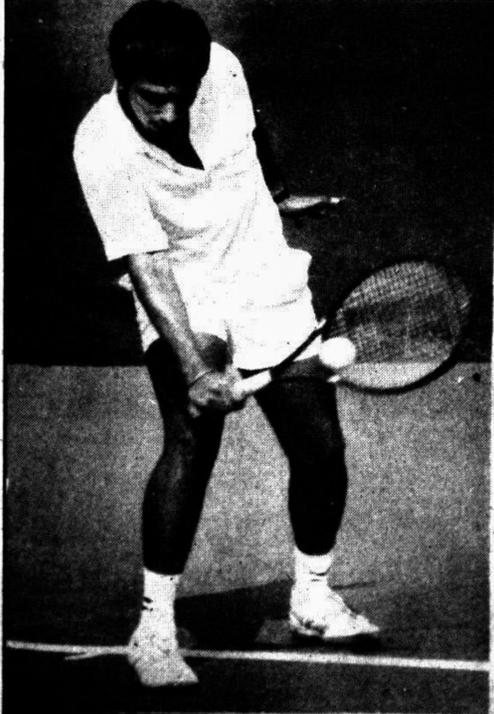
The Anti Aircraft Artillery Team out played the Savar Area Team 3-0 today. Razaque, Mofazzal and Kashem scored one goal each in the second half.

In another match, the Chittagong Area Team draw goalless with the Rangpur Area Team.

Earlier, the Comilla Area Team beat the Dhaka Infantry Team by solitary goal while the Bogra Area Team beat the Savar Area Team also 1-0 in two other matches yesterday.

TODAY'S MATCH

DSS Club vs Serajuddowla Club.



Vikram Venkataraghavan of India, the third seed, in action against South Korean Sung Jin-Wan in the boys' singles pre-quarterfinal yesterday. —Star photo